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Ten Years Ago in Timmins

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files.

Ten years ago The Advance gave much space to a review of the Farmer Cabinet of Ontario. Premier Drury selected a cabinet in which Labour, Farmer and Prohibition parties were represented. The Government was also notable for the fact that there was a separate department of mines for the province. The Advance gave the personnel of the cabinet, as announced by Premier Drury, together with brief sketches of the cabinet ministers. E. C. Drury, a farmer, of Crown Hill, Simcoe County, was premier and president of the council. Wm. E. Raney was attorney-general, but as he has since been elevated to the bench it may be as well to omit further comment. H. Mills was the minister of mines. He was formerly a locomotive engineer, and was all right at his own business. The minister of lands and forests was Beniah Bowman. The Advance was inclined to be rather sarcastic about Beniah, and events proved this not altogether uncalled-for. As a matter of fact, however, Beniah Bowman would not have been so bad a minister of lands and forests if he had not allowed the premier to over-rule him so completely. Walter Rollo, of Hamilton, was the minister of labour and health.

F. C. Biggs had charge of the department of public-works; Peter Smith, provincial treasurer; R. H. Grant, minister of education; H. C. Nixon, provincial secretary; Manning Doherty, minister of agriculture; Lieut.-Col. Carmichael, D.S.O., M.C., minister without portfolio. It is only ten years ago since this cabinet was formed, yet even the names of most of the ministers in this Farmer Government have been forgotten. The one or two remembered are not recalled very favourably. The Farmer Government started out with too broad condemnation of all other politicians and a little too much of a "holier-than-thou" attitude. They proved to be as unsatisfactory and undesirable a group as ever held the reins of government in this or any other province in Canada.

A gentleman posing as a traveller for cigars reached town from Montreal ten years ago, and engaged a sample room at the Goldfields hotel. As soon as he claimed his trunks at the baggage room here, however, he was placed under arrest. Instead of cigar samples the trunks contained 16 gallons of liquor and a sealed case. The traveller was fined \$500.00 and costs and the liquor confiscated, the Ontario Temper-

ance Act being offended by a supposed cigar salesman having such a quantity of "Oh-be-joyful."

On Nov. 18th, 1919, Porcupine Lodge No. 453, I.O.O.F., South Porcupine, gave a most enjoyable chicken dinner at their hall to welcome the returned soldiers as the guests of the evening and also to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the opening of the lodge. The South Porcupine lodge was instituted on Nov. 16th, 1914, and then had 82 members. In 1919 it had 116. Forty members of the lodge were in khaki during the war. About seven returned men were present at the event ten years ago, including some visiting brethren from Timmins. Bro. H. Costain, Noble Grand, was in charge of proceedings. A feature of the occasion was the presentation of Past Master Jewels to Brothers Black, Tomkinson and W. H. Wilson.

Ten years ago The Advance was giving front page space to advocating the erection of a curling rink for Timmins. "If some enthusiast," The Advance said in concluding one article, "would make the move to start things going, it might be evident how many there are in favour of curling. The Advance has given this necessary publicity, now is there anyone who has a further word to say. As the classical judge says before passing the life sentence:—Speak now, or forever after hold your peace!"

Major Mac Lang ten years ago addressed the Timmins G.W.V.A., explaining the Lands Settlement scheme for returned men. The local Veterans favoured the Government setting aside a township or a half township in this immediate district for settlement by soldiers. It was learned, however, that the Farmer Government did not want to do this until townships like Mountjoy were fully settled.

J. Bitus, an Austrian or Ukrainian, met death by suffocation through a sudden slide of rock in one of the chutes at the Hollinger on Nov. 12th, 1919. According to the evidence at the inquest he was at work drilling on top of one of the chutes. The ore in the chute seemed to be solid and safe, but evidently it had fallen down in such a way that there was a cavity in the centre, and while Bitus was working the rock above the cavity gave way and went down the chute drawing him with it. The accident was noted almost at once and strenuous efforts were made to dig out the unfortunate man. Although he was not apparently crushed by the rock and no bones broken or other serious injury to his body, all efforts to revive him were fruitless, death evidently being due to suffocation.

Ten years ago the town of Timmins made a very earnest effort to secure the names, addresses and other particulars of each and every soldier resident here at the time of enlistment. The Ad-

vance gave all possible assistance in the attempts to secure this list, feeling that such a list would be of special value as the years went by. The I.O.E. and G.W.V.A. both gave special help in trying to compile a full list, and The Advance urged all soldiers who were resident in Timmins when they enlisted and all friends who knew of any such soldiers to communicate with Mrs. J. A. McInnis, regent of the I.O.E., or with H. C. Garner, secretary of the G. W.V.A.

An article in The Advance ten years ago told of the convention of the Labour party held at Englehart. Angus McDonald, of Cobalt, was chosen as the Labour candidate for Temiskaming riding in the Dominion house.

The Advance ten years ago said:—"On Wednesday evening of last week someone entered the office of the Porcupine-Crown Mine during the early part of the evening and carried away the cash box from the office. There was about \$100.00 in cash in the box at the time. Apparently the thief or thieves had a good acquaintance with the office and knew how to get around. After gaining entrance the thief or thieves left the door of the office open when the work was done. The snow being packed hard all around the building, no tracks could be followed or traced and there is as yet practically no clue as to the guilty party or parties. The police, however, are working on the case, and it is hoped that their efforts will be successful, as there have been too many cases recently in the district of this type of petty stealing, Timmins particularly suffering from the work of shop-breakers and petty thieves in recent months."

In the Advance of Nov. 19th, 1919, there was the following paragraph that will be of interest to many here:—"Mr. R. F. Argles, formerly accountant with the J. R. Gordon Stores and later with the Hollinger Stores when the latter took over the J. R. Gordon business here, has entered business on his own account as auditor and accountant, with offices in the Reed block, Timmins. Mr. Argles has had many years of practical experience in the capacity of accountant and with some of Toronto's leading firms of chartered accountants as auditor. His friends here will be pleased to see Mr. Argles remaining in town and entering a field where there seems to be wide opportunity for his experience and ability."

Among the local and personal notes in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"Mr. McKenna, formerly a well-known newspaperman, of New York, and now publicity man for the Select Corporation, the fifteen-million dollar motion picture concern, was in the camp this week in connection with the work of the Select Corporation, who are making a continent-wide campaign to assist the publicity of work of the motion picture houses." "Mr. Geo.

Black, accountant at the Porcupine-Crown office here, was in Kirkland Lake last week in connection with the resuming of work at the Canadian Kirkland Mines which are controlled by the Porcupine-Crown and Crown Reserve." "Timmins has a new wholesale firm dealing in fruits, confectionery, vegetables, tobacco, etc. This is the firm of Bernstein & Lewis, with their place of business in the old Bank Saloon building, corner of Pine street and Second avenue. Mr. I. Lewis has been the representative here for the past year and a half, and is well-known here. He has entered into partnership with H. M. Bernstein, recently returned from overseas service, having served about two years in the army." "On Saturday evening the committee appointed at a recent meeting of the Timmins Football Club for the purpose, presented W. A. Field with a fountain pen and gold cuff links and E. H. Bridger with a gold scarf pin and set of cuff links, as small mementoes of the appreciation felt by the Timmins Football Club for the great interest shown and the work done so generously by these gentlemen to advance football in this town and district during the past summer. In making the presentation J. K. Moore made fitting reference to the time, talent and effort given to the interests of the football club by Messrs Field and Bridger, and the fact that it was largely through their work that football here had had so popular and successful a season this year." "Work is in progress at present in the line of improvements to the basement of the Marshall-Ecclestone building and to the property owned by J. R. Gordon adjoining. A cement foundation and cement cellar is being made to occupy the whole space under the Marshall-Ecclestone building. This basement space will be the largest and most up-to-date of its kind in town when completed. The foundation under J. R. Gordon's building, the ground floor of which is now occupied by E. H. Bridger's store, is also being strengthened and improved and additional capacity made. The cement work is being done by Contractor T. Strain, of South Porcupine." "Mr. H. Duff, of Haewyer Farm, was a visitor to Cobalt friends last week." "The Timmins Hockey Club has selected gold and black as the club's hockey colours."

"Mrs. James L. Brown and family left last week to join Mr. Brown in Toronto where the family will take up residence. Mr. Brown was formerly on the J. R. Gordon staff here, but is now with an abattoir company in Toronto." "Mr. and Mrs. Sol Sky left South Porcupine to take up residence in Toronto. Mr. and Mrs. Sky have been very popular and esteemed residents of the camp and will be sincerely missed. Mr. Sky is going into business in Toronto where he will conduct a manufacturing business specializing in ladies'

wear." "Born—in Timmins, on Saturday, Nov. 15th, 1919, to Mr. and Mrs. D. Ostrosser—a son." "Miss K. Power recently went to Iroquois Falls to join the public school teaching staff there." "Mrs. H. F. Schroeder came to the camp on Saturday to join her husband here who is violinist at the Empire theatre." "Well, there was this comfort, anyway, in regard to the cold spell that struck the Porcupine last week, that it was four below zero in another mining camp (The Pas, Manitoba), the week before." "At the Presbyterian church last Friday the boys and girls of the Sunday School gathered to organize a Mission Band that will hold regular meetings every two weeks. There were about thirty present, and the following officers were appointed:—Leader, Mrs. J. D. Parks; president, Edla Simms; vice-president, Dorothy Harrington; secretary, Edna Ducsham; treasurer, Nellie Studor; organist, Ruby Hawley; ushers (to be appointed monthly), Norma Warren and Raymond Raycraft." "Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Foster, of Schumacher, have returned home to the camp, after a visit to Peterborough. While in Peterborough Mrs. Foster underwent an operation that was very successful, and so is now very much improved in health." "The fire brigade had a run at 7.30 p.m. to F. M. Burke's residence. A prompt response was made to the alarm call and the little blaze very promptly extinguished by the use of the chemical tanks. The fire was caused by a chimney blaze and was not a serious affair, practically no damage being done." "The title of Rev. J. D. Parks address at the Presbyterian church on Sunday evening is announced as, "Is Ignorance a Sin?" "Milk prices in Cobalt have advanced from 18 cents per quart to 20 cents per quart. Perhaps Cobalt housewives may feel like objecting to the raise, but in such a case the fact that for some time past milk has been selling at four quarts for one dollar in this little town of Timmins may give them pause. One milk dealer here has been selling six quarts of milk for one dollar, but he is the exception that does not prove the rule." "The Victory Loan concert planned first for Sunday evening, Nov.

9th, had to be postponed on account of the fact that the motion picture films and the gifted speaker from Toronto who was to address the audience in several different languages failed to appear in time for the event. It was hoped that perhaps the films and the speaker might be here for last Sunday, but the local committee were again disappointed and the event will be indefinitely postponed as the campaign is now very successfully concluded."

PETAWAWA BABY WEIGHED SIXTEEN POUNDS AT BIRTH

A rather remarkable youngster is referred to in despatches last week from Pembroke. This lad is the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Clouthier, of Petawawa. The boy weighed 16 pounds at birth. Dr. R. Richards, the physician in attendance, said that a child weighing 12 pounds at birth was an exceptionally large youngster but that a 16 pound boy was phenomenal. The child is the ninth in the family. He is a healthy lad, normal in every way, except that he weighed 16 pounds at birth. It was a news item from Pembroke district that started readers of The Advance bringing into this office the numerous collection of old and rare coins that have roused so much general interest here for some months past. It is scarcely to be expected that the same thing will occur in reference to this despatch about the 16-pound baby. In reference to the old and rare coins mentioned in the Renfrew County news item there have been several here who have beaten the original for interest and oddity. A 16-pound baby boy, however, will be hard to excel. In any case readers are asked not to bring in any samples to The Advance office.

The death occurred at North Bay on Friday last of Antoine Seguin, in his 84th year. He was well-known and highly esteemed in the city, having been a resident of North Bay for the past 42 years. The late Antoine Seguin had been in ill-health since May of this year. Mr. and Mrs. Seguin celebrate their golden wedding in 1927. Mr. Seguin was a dealer in fuel until he retired some 15 years ago.

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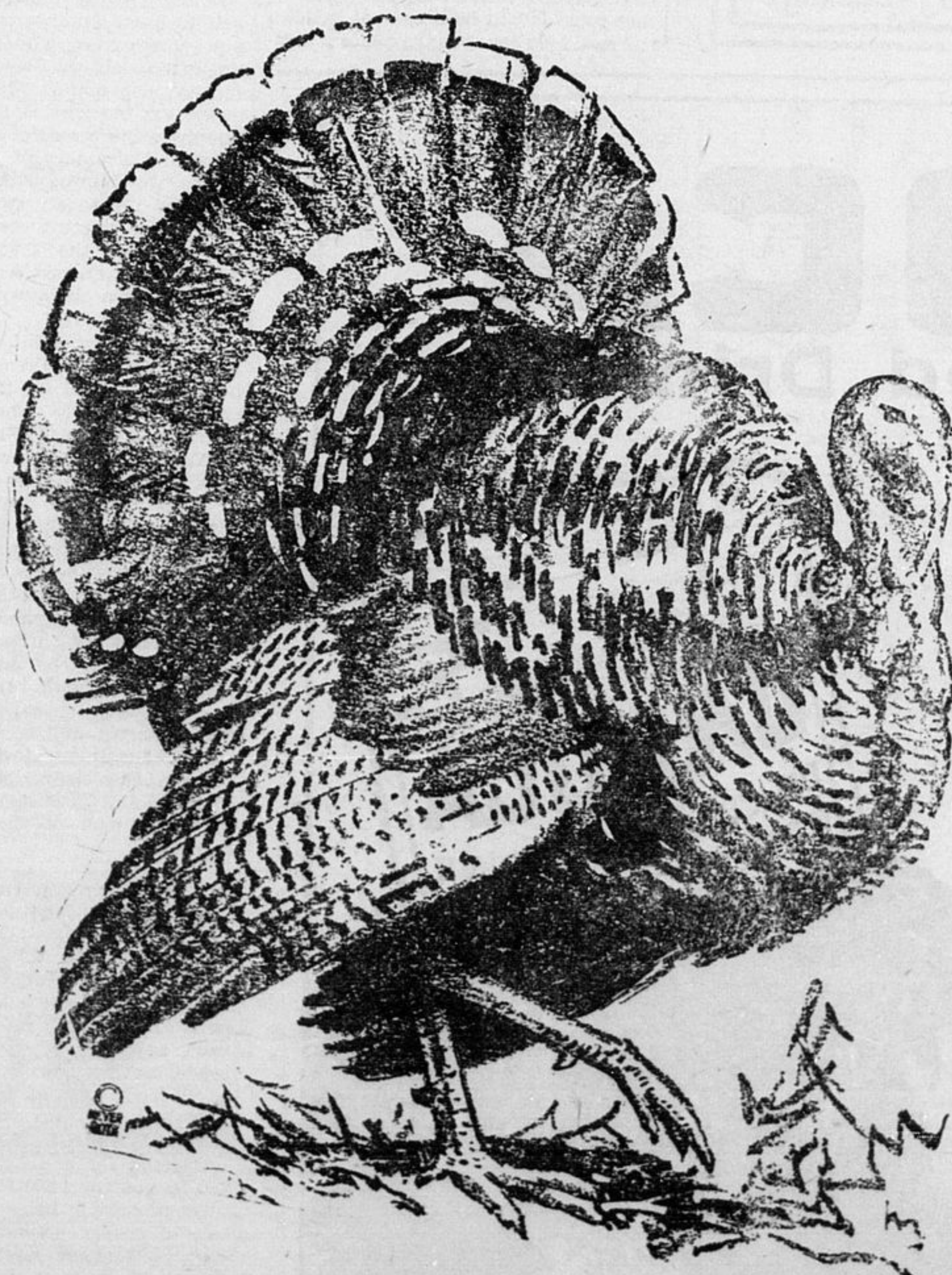
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